

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of December 27, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 15, 16, 18 and 20-25 have been reexamined with the following result: claims 18 and 20 are objected to as depending from a cancelled claim; claims 15, 16, 18, 20 - 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Drete et al; and claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) by Drete et al .

Drete et al. describes a remote diagnostic and monitoring system and method for use with an operation system having a multi-tasking interface to a real time control system. There is provided an interface computer operatively connected to the operation system, a communication link and a remote service computer coupled to the interface computer via the communication link. One area of use disclosed by Drete et al is with a photofinishing machine in the form of a photographic printer which automatically produces correctly exposed color prints from negative film. In particular the remote operation should not effect a change in the behavior of the system under test due to the source of the instruction.

In column 2, paragraph 2 it is stated that there is provided a service remote diagnostic task which runs on the remote service computer and uses a multi-tasking operating system thereof to display images received from the interface computer via the communication link and to transmit commands entered by a service person at the remote service. In the case that there are changes in the screen display as such there is a transmission thereby allowing screen updates on the interface computer to be seen at the distant remote service computer on

a real time basis.

According to Dreste et al screen images or video images are transmitted to a remote service computer. What any of this has to do with the present invention is not clear. The present invention has nothing to do with video signals. With the present invention, data is transmitted comprising information concerning the operation condition of field devices, for example a measuring value for the level or pressure in the process, and/or information concerning process variables registered with the field device, and/or identification data of the field device. This represents quite a deviation from Dreste et al.

In column 11, lines 58 ff of Dreste et al. there is stated that in the case that there is no difference between the previous and the current screen image the result of the Exclusive OR logical operation applied to the previous and current images will be zero. The result can be seen in the schematic drawings. This Exclusive OR result is then packed for transmission using a packing function. When the packed transmission is received at a remote service computer it is unpacked to provide the sent or transmitted characters, for example a zero for each unchanged character. In the end this does not result in a data reduction as is the case with the present inventive. When applying Dreste et al's technique to the present invention there would not be data reduction, i.e., the problem which the present inventive method addresses cannot be solved.

Claim 15 has been amended to clarify the invention slightly, although the steps recited are believed to be more than sufficient to define over Dreste et al. Claim 15 recites that data is evaluated and stored during an interval between transfer of data, wherein the process data is reduced by means of the evaluation. This feature is not found in Dreste et al.

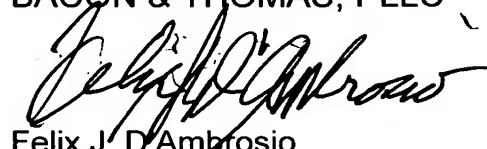
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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written over the printed name.

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